

Prospect Park, PA— Six decades after Frank Witmer Jr. turned his garage into an equipment storage shed and his backyard into a gridiron, Prospect Park commemorated 60 years of Termites football with a parade and ceremony. Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) joined team supporters and more than 300 players from age 7-15, who this season will sport jerseys in the style of the original 1948 uniforms. They marched from the municipality administration building to Witmer Field, passing the original home of Termite football, the home of Frank and Peggy Witmer. Frank, now 93, was honored at the site bearing his name, receiving accolades from Prospect Park residents and a Congressional Citation from the Congressman. —

“The large turnout and obvious enthusiasm at today’s events demonstrates the wonderful impact that this organization has had on this borough,” said Congressman Sestak. “Frank Witmer has brought together families of Prospect Park and taught generations of Termites teamwork, discipline and dedication. It was a great honor to meet a gentleman who committed himself to instilling these values in the youth of his community.”

Termite football has grown from 25 neighborhood boys playing pick-up games in the late 1940s to an organization comprised of four teams made up of different age groups and two cheerleading squads. Twenty years after the program’s establishment, Prospect Park officially renamed the Municipal Field at 4th and Lafayette Avenues The Frank P. Witmer Jr. Athletic Field. In 2004, the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Inc., Philadelphia Chapter, recognized Mr. & Mrs. Witmer and the Prospect Park Termites with their Youth League Award.

“Through times of war and peace, prosperity and recession, the Termites Youth Club and the Frank P. Witmer Jr. Athletic Field have been a constant source of joy, inspiration and hope for a better tomorrow,” said the Congressman in his citation. “On behalf of all the good people of the Seventh Congressional District, it is my great honor and privilege to thank Frank Witmer and the love of his life Peggy for their shining example and invaluable contribution to our community.”

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security

Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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